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TAGS: APER
SUBJECT: Apply for the PIT Buyback Program Before the
August 2008 Deadline

1. In August 2005, the Office of Retirement (HR/RET) announced establishment of the PIT (Part-time, Intermittent, or Temporary employment) buyback program. Federal law and personnel regulations were amended so that qualified, former PIT employees can now purchase credit for their service at U. S. missions overseas between January 1, 1989 and May 24, 1998.
2. Since last year we have established implementing mechanisms and completed processing of more than half of the applications received thus far. These applications were forwarded to the Retirement Accounts Division, which calculates the amounts owed by both employees and employing agencies. Based on preliminary estimates, we have processed enough applications to utilize the \$2 million allotted for payment of employing agency deposits this fiscal year.
3. We would like to invite those who may be eligible to participate, but who have not submitted their applications, to do so well in advance of expiration of the PIT buyback program on August 29, 2008. In order to qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - The PIT buyback program is limited to service performed between January 1, 1989 to May 23, 1998;
 - Service under a PIT appointment is creditable for retirement purposes, but employment under a PSC (Personal Services Contract) is not;
 - Service must have been performed at a U. S. mission abroad; service in Washington, DC is not creditable;
 - Applicants must meet eligibility requirements for family-member, limited, non-career appointments;
 - Service must have lasted for periods of 90 days or more; and,
 - Applicants (employees or annuitants) must pay an appropriate deposit in one lump sum within 180 days of being notified of the deposit accompanied by the employing

agency's contribution.

You can expedite processing your claims by making sure you have correctly prepared all the required documentation:

- Please submit your application on form SF 3108 if you are currently covered by FERS or on form DS 5001 if you are covered by FSPS. Application forms are available on our website, www.RNet.state.gov.
- Applicants who have periods of service other than during that specific timeframe should file a separate application.
- Your application must have relevant documentation (SF 50's) to support your claim. See your bureau HR specialist if you need help obtaining access to your official personnel folder.
- We must have exact dates of employment, salary rates and work schedules in order to calculate the deposit owed to purchase service credit. Affidavits do not suffice.
- Your signed, original cover letter must be in the format prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management. It must confirm your understanding of the application process and identify your current employment status.
- You must provide documentation of your status as an eligible family member during the period of the PIT buyback program.

4. The answers to most questions on this program, as well as other retirement issues, are posted on our website, www.RNet.state.gov, or on <http://AskRNet.hr.state.gov>. Both RNet and AskRNet are available on the Department's intranet site under Key Programs. If you have individual questions, please send them to RETServices@state.gov.

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